

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

MILLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—STRASSER—HONORABLE

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—NASSAU QUEEN—SANTINI

WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 844 Broadway.—HONORABLE

LAURA KRENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—OUR AMERICAN

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—SCOTT'S—BAND

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—STICKNEY'S NATIONAL

BARON'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—DAY AND

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—SCOTT'S—BAND

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—STICKNEY'S NATIONAL

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One of their number had an interview previously with the French Minister, M. Mercier, at Washington, from whom he received the assurance that France would not break the blockade unless a case as strong as that of Mason and Slidell were to occur to the French government.

Our Key West correspondent, writing on the 17th January, says, Commodore McKean sent the Massachusetts towing four prize schooners loaded with sand, to be sunk in Horn Island Pass. How he can be expected to keep an efficient blockade on so much, and such a coast, with the guns and vessels he has, is inconceivable.

The rebels express great apprehensions as to the movements of the Burnside expedition, which has appeared at Hatteras. They believe an attack is meditated in the rear of Norfolk.

The Memphis Argus of January 2 and 5 has rich, rare and racy articles on the rebel situation. It handles Jeff. Davis "without gloves," and styles him and his mock Cabinet as "illegal welders of authority." It compliments the federal army, and admits that the rebels are hemmed in on all sides by superior forces.

The Trenton (Tenn.) Standard says that there is considerable evidence of disloyalty to the Confederate government in West Tennessee. It was found necessary to send troops into Carroll county to arrest some of the constituted authorities.

CONGRESS.
In the Senate yesterday, the resolution appropriating \$10,000 for the expenses of the Joint Special Committee on the War was passed. The House bill, repealing the act whereby witnesses before Congressional Committees are exempted from criminal prosecution in courts of justice, was reported back by the Judiciary Committee, and after some debate, passed. A bill from the Committee on the Conduct of the War, authorizing the President to take possession of certain railroads and telegraph lines, was referred. The consideration of the resolution in regard to the expulsion of Senator Bright, of Indiana, was then resumed, and Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, made a strong speech in favor of extreme coercive measures to quell the rebellion, urging that any Senator who, like Mr. Bright, had avowed himself adverse to coercion, was unfit to occupy a seat in the Senate. Without concluding his remarks, Mr. Davis gave way to a motion for an executive session.

In the House of Representatives, the bill providing for an increase of the clerical force of the War and Navy Departments, was passed. The Senate bill, authorizing certain naval officers to accept presents from the Japanese government, was also passed. The Committee of Ways and Means reported a bill authorizing the issue of United States notes, and for the redemption and funding thereof, and for the funding of the floating debt of the United States. It was made the special order for Tuesday next. A bill for the payment of field officers of volunteer regiments for services rendered prior to the full organization of their regiments, was reported by the Military Committee. The President was requested to inform the House whether the act of Congress requiring officers of the new regiments of the regular army, appointed from civil life, to be assigned to the recruiting service has been complied with, and, if so, how many officers have been thus employed since the extra session of Congress. A resolution was adopted calling upon the Secretary of War for information as to whether, and in what time, a military force can be detailed to protect the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, in order that the road may be repaired. In Committee of the Whole the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill was taken up, and Messrs. Diven, of New York, and Stevens, of Pennsylvania, made speeches on the rebellion and slavery question.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.
The State Senate at Albany yesterday got so far advanced in the business of the session as to reach the passage of bills. A few were passed; among them that amending the insurance laws in reference to foreign insurance companies doing business here; the one to extend Flatbush avenue, Brooklyn, and that legalizing the New York Common Council acts relative to providing relief for the volunteers' families. The bill amending the Revised Statutes relative to unauthorized banking was reported upon favorably. Notices were given of bills to enable the Croton Aqueduct Department to relay pavements; establishing a Council of Conciliation for the Court of Appeals, and to amend the divorce laws. The Finance Committee reported concurrent resolutions in favor of the several States being informed by the national government of their quotas of taxes already or hereafter to be levied, so that each State may be enabled to assume the collection of its portion. The resolutions were laid over for future consideration. The 30th inst. was appointed for the election of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In the Assembly a message was received from the Governor, covering the report of the Engineer-in-Chief on harbor and coast defenses. It was ordered to be printed. Favorable reports were made on the bills for regulating insurance in foreign companies, and regulating dividends in our own fire insurance companies. Among the bills introduced were the following:—To extend the right of suffrage to volunteers at the seat of war; to stop the swill milk traffic; to incorporate the Commonwealth Savings Bank in this city; to amend the Harlem Stage and Ferry Company's charter; to amend the Revised Statutes in relation to demands against vessels; in relation to Brooklyn Justices' Courts, and to incorporate the Brooklyn Academy of the Visitation. A resolution was introduced and laid over relative to the amendment of the constitution, so as to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors. A resolution calling for an "onward movement" of our army was presented and discussed, but no final action was taken on it when the Assembly adjourned.

The mail steamship Columbia, from Havana, reached this port yesterday evening, with news from Cuba dated on the 18th inst. She had also important advices from Mexico, and news reports from the Bahamas and Key West.

The advices from Mexico are dated at Vera Cruz on the 10th of the present month. A part of the English and French squadrons of operations had arrived. The preparations of the Mexicans for resistance to the Spaniards still continued. The people seemed desirous of doing everything in their power for the defence of their homes. Provisions were very dear and scarce. Guerrillas were assembling all around the mountains near Vera Cruz, and it was feared that the Spaniards would have to fight hard for any advantage they may eventually obtain.

A correspondent at Havana writes:—The Santiago de Cuba came here to coal, and has awaited the Columbia and Karnak for despatches and letters in vain. None came. There is considerable suspicion of hocus pocus somewhere, and it should be attended to.

Havana was very dull. Max Maretzek returned in the Columbia.

From the Bahamas the news is dated to the 12th of January. Forty of the guns of the British ship Conqueror had been recovered and taken to Nassau. The movements of the English war vessels were very active. The coal which was intended for the use of the United States vessels at Nassau, but which they would not be permitted by the authorities to take, had been sold by the American Consul to the British vessels Bulldog and Steady.

The United States steam transport Illinois, which conveyed the Ninetieth New York regiment, Col-

Morgan, to Key West, returned to this port last evening, having left that place on the 18th inst. On the arrival of the New York troops at Key West they immediately disembarked and selected a camping ground at a beautiful location on the shore inner bay, immediately east of the Key West Barracks. Private John W. Stillwell, of Company I, Ninetieth regiment, died at sea on the 7th of January, and was buried at sea the following day with much solemnity. The regiment is in excellent health and spirits.

The Richmond Examiner of the 20th inst. gives an account of the last hours of ex-President John Tyler. He was taken suddenly ill at the breakfast table, and expired at twelve o'clock at night on the 17th inst. Arrangements were being made in the rebel Congress for the funeral.

Seven soldiers deserted from the Eighty-fourth British regiment in Canada in December last, and one of them, Corporal Sullivan, has enlisted in a company in Troy.

Three or four of the ringleaders in the strike at the Portsmouth (N. H.) Navy Yard have been discharged, with orders from the government that they must not be again employed.

The State of Kentucky has in the field fighting for the Union five regiments of cavalry and twenty-eight of infantry, numbering in all thirty-three thousand men. By an act of the rebel Congress at Richmond Kentucky is one of the Confederate States.

There is a strong feeling among the Unionists of Missouri against the appointment of Robert Wilson as one of the United States Senators from that State. It is alleged that he is a secessionist, and has decided proclivities in favor of the rebellion. He took part in and addressed a mass meeting of the citizens of Andrew and Buchanan counties, Mo., which was held the latter part of April last, and at which resolutions were passed condemning as inhuman and diabolical the war which the government had inaugurated for the purpose of suppressing the rebellion. The tone of the meeting was secession all through. Some of the Missouri papers ask, "Will Gen. Wilson be permitted to take his seat?"

The Provost Marshal of Leavenworth, Kansas, has declared all persons belonging to military organizations not authorized by Kansas or the United States to be outlaws and highwaymen, and that if caught they will be punished according to the decision of a drum head court martial.

John B. Henderson, who was appointed by acting Gov. Hall to be Judge of the Supreme Court of Missouri, has declined.

Eight thousand troops in Ohio are under marching orders, and will leave for the seat of war this week.

Thomas A. Harris, one of the members elected by the bogus Legislature of Missouri to the rebel Congress, which is to meet on the 18th of February at Richmond, has been taken prisoner.

James Dunn cut his wife's throat in Utica on the 19th inst., and then committed suicide by cutting his own throat. Both died immediately. Mrs. Dunn formerly lived in Harlem, at the upper end of New York Island, where she kept a grocery and boarding house, her name being then Mrs. Troy. She had three husbands, the first named Corigan, being lost, with some four hundred others, while he was on his way from Ireland to Quebec. The vessel was wrecked in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Mrs. Corigan was among the few who were saved. They leave two orphan children.

Smallpox, typhoid fever and measles prevail to such an extent among the soldiers at Plattsburg, N. Y., that the Board of Health of the village have forbidden owners of taverns, saloons, barber shops and other places of public resort allowing any soldier or other person attached to the barracks to enter their premises. The soldiers are also deprived of the privilege of attending the churches.

The icy surface of the lakes in the Central Park was cleared of snow yesterday early enough to allow the lower one to be opened for skating by nine o'clock in the morning, and the upper one by eleven. The ice was good, although a little rough; therefore, to give our citizens every opportunity for skating, the ball was raised aloft, and the signal flags down town were also thrown to the breeze. About 9,000 persons visited the Park during the day. The contractor for lighting the pond having failed to perform his contract, other arrangements have been made. Experiments were successfully tried last night, and if the weather prove fair the ice will be properly illuminated to-night. Should no adverse change take place in the weather, skating will be allowed to-day from seven o'clock A. M. to half-past ten P. M. The experiments with the calcium lights on the lakes last night met with a complete success; and when the ponds were properly lit up, cheers loud and low were sent forth by the assembled crowd of skaters. In future the pond will be illuminated every dark night during the season.

In the General Sessions yesterday, William Griffin, alias William McDonald, was tried and convicted of bigamy. It was shown that on the 25th of June, 1860, he was married to Ann McAuley by the rector of St. Ann's church, Brooklyn, and that on the 12th of December, 1861, he was united in wedlock to Ann Cannon, his first wife being still alive. He was remanded till Saturday for sentence. William Rigby, indicted for a felonious assault upon Dexter W. Proctor, at 15 Walker street, on the 3d of January, was convicted of assault and battery and remanded. Dennis Doyle, who was jointly indicted with others, was tried on a charge of robbing James Cosgrove of \$337 at a drinking saloon in First avenue, on Christmas eve. At a late hour in the afternoon the jury rendered a verdict of guilty. Hogan, who was charged with being a confederate, was acquitted on Monday.

No business was transacted by the Commissioners of Emigration yesterday. From the weekly statement it appears that the number of emigrants who arrived here during the week ending the 22d inst. was 489, making a total of 1,112 during the present year, against 1,885 to same date last year. The Treasurer's report shows a balance in the bank of \$4,058 93. The number of inmates remaining on Ward's Island is 794.

The market for beef cattle was dull and heavy yesterday, and prices were more irregular and a shade lower, varying from 5c. to 8½c. a lb., but with only a few sales at the outside prices. Milch cows were dull at \$25 a \$45 a \$50. Veals were steady at 4c. a 6½c. Sheep and lambs were reported a shade lower; but the quotations appear full as high, varying from \$2 87 to \$4 50 a \$6 75, with sales of extras at still higher rates. Swine were again in large supply; the current quotations yesterday were 3½c. a 3¾c. for corn fed, and 3c. a 3½c. for still fed. The total receipts were 4,292 head cattle, 94 cows, 362 veals, 9,623 sheep and lambs, and about 44,000 hogs.

There was rather more doing in cotton yesterday, while the general features of the trade presented no important variation. The sales ranged up 600 bales, in lots, mostly to spinners, on the basis of 32c. a 33c. for middling uplands and 34c. for good middling do. The sales also included 100 bales to arrive, deliverable on the wharf, at 31c. It is said that the cotton on the way from England to this port, about 2,200 bales, consists of Surata, some of which was engaged to come out on steamers at 24 per pound freight. The shipment of the style of short cotton, it was said, was made from Liverpool to this market on speculation.

The four market, under the influence of some speculative demand, was rather more active, while prices, with slight exceptions, for common grades of State and Western, were unchanged. Wheat was steady, with moderate sales. Corn was lower and more active at the concession, closing at 63½c. for Western mixed in store, and 65c. delivered. Pork was steady, with moderate sales at \$12 31 a \$12 50 for new mess, and \$9 25 a \$9 50 for new prime, and \$13 for Western prime mess. Sugars were steady, with sales of 661 hhds. Cuba and 150 bags St. Louis. Coffee was firm. The cargo of the Nautilus, 4,700 bags, was sold on private terms. Freight was easier to British ports, while shipments were by a moderate extent.

Violation of the Blockade by England and France—Its Inevitable Consequences.

The English press, which, in its expressions of bitter hostility towards this country, professes to represent the British government, does not appear to be satisfied with the prospective surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, but has begun to discuss the propriety of breaking the blockade of the Southern coast, within the course of the next few months. The language of the most influential of the London journals, and the known animus of a majority of the Queen's ministers, render it evident that it is the duty of the United States government to be prepared for such a contingency. Should it appear to the superficial observer that material and commercial issues are more involved in this projected interference with the measures that are being taken to repress rebellion and restore the integrity of the Union, than secret hostility to our institutions and envy of our national greatness, it is none the less manifest that it cannot be attempted without a violation of the law of nations, and the grossest of outrages upon the usages of the whole civilized world. With whatever impunity Great Britain, or any other foreign Power, may suppose that Southern ports can be prematurely, and without the permission of the federal authorities, opened to the trade of the world, the act of so trampling upon our rights would kindle a conflagration of war, throughout Europe and the world, of which the ramifications and extent can scarcely at present be either exaggerated or predicted.

Although the line of Southern coast to be guarded, extends from Cape Henlopen to the Rio Grande, there never has been, in the history of warfare, a more effective blockade created, than that which exists from one extreme of it to the other. Like all other blockades, it can only be more or less perfect, and its observance, like that of criminal laws, can only be more or less entirely secured. Penalties against burglary, arson and murder seek to prevent the commission of those crimes, yet they are occasionally, at the risk of summary and condign punishment, perpetrated. Vessels, in the same manner, may essay breaking the blockade of rebel seaports and harbors; but they do so at the hazard of confiscation, and such isolated, illegal endeavors confirm instead of weakening the strength of the general law. They are the burglars of the ocean against international law. If nations, however, like England or France, were to prostitute their power, by disregarding the blockade which the United States has established, it would, of necessity, be considered a *casus belli*, and would be resisted by our government with all the force it could put forth.

It is sincerely to be hoped that Great Britain will pause and ponder well the inevitable consequences of a step which may react fatally upon itself. Has it, France, weighed well the fact, that an attempt to avail themselves of our embarrassments, by interrupting the effective and just system of repression of an unnatural rebellion which we have adopted, would kindle flames of strife throughout Europe and Asia, and upheave the very foundations of monarchical government, during perhaps the period of a whole generation? The people of the United States are, it is true, testing for the very life, the whole future existence of their nationality; but, if compelled to protect themselves against foreign interference, they will be able to put forth a strength of resistance which European Powers should already begin to perceive that they are fully capable. We have seven hundred thousand men in the field; double that number could be put under arms if necessary; and it would be utterly impossible, whatever temporary reverses we might suffer at sea, for England to prevent the overthrow of her dominion in Canada, and wherever else she has possession on this continent.

But this is not all. France, now so urgently instigating Great Britain to recognize the independence of the Southern confederacy, and to break the blockade, would immediately avail herself of the occasion, to secure, in conjunction with the kingdom of Italy, the ascendancy of the Latin race on the continent, and to overturn the monarchies of Germany and reduce them to a subsidiary position. Of course, Austria would first feel their attacks, and while Napoleon III. and Victor Emmanuel were engaged in a deadly struggle with Francis Joseph II. and his Teutonic allies, and England and the United States were exhausting their energies in inflicting injuries upon each other, there would be nothing to prevent Russia from entering upon the fulfillment of the predestined mission, marked out by Peter the Great and Catherine II. for the Slavonic race, and accomplishing the subjugation of Constantinople. It may be considered as beyond a question that the result, within a year, of the breaking of the blockade of the Southern coast of the United States by England, would be the pouring into Turkey, Asia Minor and Egypt of immense Russian armies, and the cutting off of the connection between Great Britain and her East Indian possessions. And, as there is no imaginable conflict of interest to cause a rupture between Russia and the United States, what would there then be to prevent joint fleets and armies from California and Eastern Siberia, from San Francisco and the Amoor river, from liberating Hindostan, and taking away from England the richest of her colonial possessions?

Let the rash and bigoted diplomatists of England pause. Let sober second thought be abundantly consulted, before they indulge in further manifestations of hatred of American institutions, and jealousy of growing American greatness. The United States is valuable to Great Britain as a market; but hostile complications with us would ruin her forever as an enemy. A war between the two countries would, in all human probability, result in a change in the constitutions of kingdoms and empires, and, before it end, would witness, involve monarchs and potentates in a common downfall. The unprincipled project of breaking the blockade of the Southern coast would fire a train which would lead to an explosion so terrific, so fraught with misery to mankind, that good men everywhere must pray that such a calamity may be averted. Nevertheless, it is our duty to hold ourselves in readiness for the worst. Our seaboard should be put into a state of complete defence; the navy of the United States should be augmented in force, until it is able to compete with any other maritime Power; volunteer regiments for the defence of our coast, harbors and fortifications should enrol themselves as rapidly as possible, and be supplied with the means of perfecting themselves in artillery practice and ordnance tactics, ready to spring to arms at the first alarm of invasion.

The authorities at Washington will gladly lend their aid to such local, patriotic movements, and second every effort to provide for the future defence of the country. It is sincerely to be hoped, however, that foreign governments will draw back from the ruinous policy upon which they have lately entered, and consider the superior advantages that may be derived from peace.

Financial Prospects of the Republic—Fraternization of the Secession and Abolition Press.

The old proverb, that extremes meet, is singularly illustrated in the case of the rebellious journals of the South and the abolition journals of the North, particularly of this city, which agree in depreciating the credit of the federal government and in drawing alarming pictures of future bankruptcy and ruin. On Monday last we published two articles from the Richmond Examiner—one giving a glowing account of the flourishing monetary and financial condition of the South, and the other exhibiting a dismal view of the dilapidation of the financial and commercial status of the North. According to this well informed and veracious journal, while the Southern banks are under the control of the people and the rebel government, who would squelch them if they did not receive their Confederate currency at par, the Northern banks are too powerful for the government, and they will depreciate its currency, and moreover so curtail the amount of their loans to the merchants as to produce general bankruptcy. About this we shall see.

Yesterday we published two articles from two other rebel journals—one of them the Richmond Whig and the other the Montgomery Advertiser—substantially expressing the same opinions. The Virginia journal arrives at the conclusion that the new national currency about being issued, which it calls "an irredeemable circulation in paper promises," will be depreciated from twenty-five to forty per cent; and when another and another batch of them are issued, "their value will decrease like the Continental paper money in the Revolution, until they become worthless." The Alabama paper holds that "the time is not far distant when the North, stripped of her commerce and ruined credit, will sink to the rank of a fourth or fifth rate Power."

This is exactly the picture presented by the abolition journals of New York, which from the beginning have played into the hands of the secessionists and against the cause of the Union. They have compared the securities about to be issued by the government to the paper money of the Continental Congress and the French assignats, the origin of which one of these journals ignorantly ascribes to John Law, who was dead long before the French Revolution, at which time the assigns were first issued by the Constituent Assembly, who based them on the forfeited lands of the clergy, the crown, and the emigrants or royalists who had left the country on account of their adherence to the King.

Now, there is no resemblance between the money which it is proposed to issue in the present crisis and that issued either by the American Congress in the Revolutionary war or by the heads of the French Revolution. At first the French assigns bore interest by the day; but afterwards they were issued without interest, and in such vast numbers as to become ruinously depreciated, selling at one-seventh, then at one-tenth of their nominal value, and finally losing all value, and being no better than waste paper. There was no taxation to pay the interest and redeem the principal. To show how that would have prevented the depreciation, we may refer to the fact that even after this money had already been greatly depreciated it was restored to its par value, for a time, by taxation. In August, 1793, there were in circulation three thousand seven hundred and seventy-six millions of assigns, and by a forced loan of one thousand millions, and by the collection of a year's taxes, this amount was subsequently reduced to less than two-thirds. The confidence, moreover, inspired by the recent successes of the republic against its foreign and domestic enemies tended to increase the value of the securities on which the paper money ultimately reposed; so that towards the end of 1793 the assigns were at par. The taxation system, however, was not persevered in, and hence the terrible results. The same is true of the paper money issued by the Continental Congress in the time of our own Revolution. It was not supported by taxation. Hence it became as worthless as the French assignats.

The financial scheme now proposed is essentially different. It is based on taxation. The money is to be convertible into bonds, the principal of which, at a given time, is to be paid by taxation, and also the interest every half year. We are in a very different position from either the revolutionary colonies or France. Both were poor. The population and resources of the colonies were too small to bear much taxation. The French people had been beggared by their kings, nobles and clergy, and they had not the means of paying heavy taxes. On the contrary, we are a wealthy nation, whose resources are fresh, vast and unimpaired. Taxation to the amount required will scarcely be felt, if it is only judiciously regulated. The plan proposed is after the model of the British Exchequer bills, which have been found to work so well.

Let Congress, therefore, authorize the issue of two hundred and fifty millions of paper money, instead of one hundred and fifty millions, to be convertible at the pleasure of the holder into United States redeemable bonds, bearing six per cent interest. At the same time let a tax of \$250,000,000 be levied, and so distributed over the whole community that no particular class will feel it severely. Had Congress done that in the last session our financial affairs would be all right now. It is not too late even now to repair the error. But let it be done quickly. The tax thus raised will sustain the credit of the government and uphold its currency nearly to par for two years, which will be the utmost extent of the duration of the war. A few victories, achieved soon, as in the case of the French republic, will not be without their effect in preventing the depreciation which the abolitionists and secessionists alike predict, the wish being father to the thought, and the intention of the prophets being to fulfil their own predictions if they can.

In connection with the comprehensive system of Mr. Chase, a bankrupt law is to be established, which will relieve the honestly failing trader, and prevent the catastrophe foretold by the Richmond Examiner. Nor are the Northern banks beyond the control of the government, as is alleged by that journal. On the contrary, they are completely in its power, and it will be the duty of the government to keep them so.